

Indigenous Digital Archive

The following pages are the original guides by the US National Archives to open federal records that soon will be able to be accessed freely online through the Indigenous Digital Archive, a collaborative interface at <http://native-docs.org>.

The Indigenous Digital Archive is a project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in collaboration with the State Library Tribal Libraries Program and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, an organization of all 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

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Introduction

On the 38 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1473, are reproduced the 68 volumes of bound records and 6.5 cubic feet of unbound records created by the Santa Fe Indian School between 1890-1918. These records are in the holdings of the National Archives-Rocky Mountain Region in Denver, Colorado, and are part of the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75.

Background

From 1789 until 1824 Indian affairs were administered by the Secretary of War; but on May 11, 1824, an order by Secretary John C. Calhoun established the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within the War Department (9 Stat. 395). The Bureau remained under War Departmental direction until 1849 when it was transferred to its current location within the Department of the Interior.

In the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war with Mexico, the United States acquired sovereignty over the Pueblo Indians and was required to respect Indian titles to land granted them by Spain and Mexico. In 1854 the BIA established the Pueblo Agency at Santa Fe to administer the affairs for 19 Pueblo villages in New Mexico. These Pueblo Indians were not of a single tribe and each village had a closely integrated community life with its own government and irrigation system.

In 1891 the BIA consolidated the Pueblo Agency at Santa Fe with the Jicarilla Subagency to form the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency. In 1900, this agency was abolished and responsibility for the Pueblo Indians was divided between the superintendents of the Indian schools at Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

The Santa Fe Indian School superintendent was assigned responsibility for the Indians in northern New Mexico, which included the pueblos of Cochiti, Jemez, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, and Zia. The Pueblo Indians in southern New Mexico were placed under the jurisdiction of the Albuquerque Indian School. In addition to maintaining his school and its satellite day schools, each superintendent was responsible for issuing supplies to Indians, leasing reservation land, supervising the deposit of Indian moneys, developing the agricultural resources of the pueblos, and providing adequate medical care.

Except for a brief period between 1911 and 1912, this organization remained in effect until 1914 when Pueblo administrative affairs were transferred to the newly-created Pueblo Indian Agency and Day Schools headquartered in Albuquerque. After that time, the Santa Fe Indian School continued as an educational institution without responsibilities for administering affairs relating to other Pueblo Indians in northern New Mexico.

Although opening agencies in the Southwest as early as 1854 to supervise Indian affairs, the Federal Government was slower about establishing Indian schools in the area. Until 1870 almost all Indian

education was provided by missionaries. Small day schools at the larger pueblos were opened in the 1870's; however, toward the end of the decade, officials of the BIA decided that day schools contributed little to Indian education. In 1879, Captain R.H. Pratt opened the first Indian boarding school at Carlisle Barracks, PA. The Carlisle Indian School became a model for other Indian educational facilities. The Santa Fe Indian School, the Fort Mojave School in Arizona, and the Carson School in Nevada were among a number of southwestern educational institutions that were established between 1879-1894.

Each school was an independent jurisdiction that normally reported directly to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington. Operational funds were provided by Congress, usually as separate items in Indian appropriation acts. Non-reservation Indian schools could accept students from any surrounding tribe or agency as long as space was available.

Opened in November 1890, the Santa Fe School provided industrial training for children from Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. Although the students were primarily from the pueblos under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school, there were normally about 100 students from other reservations. These included the Navajo, Mescalero, Jicarilla, and, to a lesser extent, the Pima reservations. At first the Santa Fe Indian School accepted pupils from all grades, but enrollment was later limited to the sixth grade and above.

The children devoted half of each day to work in the school room and the other half to vocational training. In many instances, the vocational element was in reality productive labor such as washing dishes, scrubbing floors, and working in the fields and gardens of the school. In later years, the curriculum promoted the native industries of pottery, bead work, and basketry.

Records Description

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are those described in series 32 through 35, 38, and 40 of the *Preliminary Inventory of Pueblo Records Created by Field Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs* (PI 192). The records were created between 1890 and 1918 by the Santa Fe Indian School. The first four series filmed are copies of letters sent by the Superintendent of the Santa Fe Indian School and by other school officers to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Indian agents, agency employees, territorial officials, individual Indians, and private individuals. Most of the letters were signed by the superintendent of the school and concern personnel, school activities, Pueblo lands, and the welfare of individual Indians.

The remaining two series microfilmed are letters sent by day school teachers and the superintendent's correspondence with day school employees. These letters concern day school activities, personnel, individual Indians, and the general administration of the Santa Fe Indian School and the day schools.

The records are filmed in the order in which they are described in the preliminary inventory. Fading and deterioration of originals have sometimes made satisfactory reproduction impossible, although most are readable. Five volumes were not filmed because of extensive water damage. Those volume numbers are noted in the series descriptions.

1. Press Copies of Miscellaneous Letters Sent. June 1890-December 1913. 38 volumes. 4 ft. Arranged chronologically by date sent. Volumes 1-3, 17-18, and 21-38 are indexed alphabetically by name of addressee. This series consists of letters sent by the Superintendent of the Santa Fe Indian School to the

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, day school teachers, governors of pueblos, territorial officials, individual Indians, and private citizens. The letters concern the administration of Indian schools and hospitals, the construction and maintenance of facilities, day school activities, personnel, and fiscal matters. Parts of volume 13 and volumes 14-16 (covering the period September 7, 1901-March 16, 1903) and volume 23 (covering October 9, 1905-March 9, 1906) were not filmed due to water damage.

2. Press Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. September 1898-February 1894. 1 volume. 2 in. Arranged chronologically by date sent. Indexed alphabetically by subject. These letters were sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the superintendent. The letters concern the acquisition of equipment and supplies, building maintenance, school personnel, and the construction of additional buildings at the Santa Fe Indian School. Several letters describe the shortage of water at the school for drinking, irrigation, and fire protection.

3. Press Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. February 1900-November 1913, July-September 1914. 16 volumes. 2 ft. Arranged chronologically by date sent. Volumes 3-16 are indexed alphabetically by subject. This series was begun when the Superintendent of the Santa Fe Indian School assumed jurisdiction over the Pueblo Indians in northern New Mexico. The letters concern the general administration of Pueblo affairs, including Indian health and welfare, school activities, finance, personnel, supplies, and general administrative policies. Volume 5, covering August 2, 1904-June 13, 1905, was not filmed due to water damage.

4. Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning Pueblo Day Schools. March 1900-June 1911, February-March 1912. 16 volumes. 2 ft. Arranged chronologically by date sent. Volumes 6-16 are indexed alphabetically by subject. These letters were sent by the superintendent primarily to day school employees, although volume 1 includes letters sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The letters concern individual Indians and their special problems, the enrollment of pupils in day school, student health, the acquisition of supplies, and financial matters. Volume 2 of this series contains brief historical sketches of each of the 11 day schools then under the jurisdiction of the Santa Fe Indian School. Part of volume 8, covering July 10-October 1, 1906, was not filmed due to water damage. Volumes 9 and 10, October 2, 1906-March 13, 1908, suffered less extensive damage and were microfilmed. However, both volumes contain miscellaneous pages too damaged to be legible.

5. Letters Received from Day School Teacher, Clara D. True, 1901-1907. 6 in. Arranged chronologically by date received. Clara True was a day school teacher at Santa Clara Day School from September 1901-December 1907. Her letters concern day school activities at Santa Clara, including student health and enrollment, individual Indian problems, conversations with pueblo governors, and school administrative policies.

6. Superintendent's Correspondence with Day School Employees, 1900-1918. 6 ft. Arranged alphabetically by pueblo, and thereunder chronologically by date sent or received. Most of this correspondence is handwritten letters by day school teachers that were sent to the Superintendent of the Santa Fe Indian School. The letters describe conditions at the day schools, efforts to enroll pupils, health care, education programs, and relationships formed between day school teachers and the Indian community. Many of the letters concern the reluctance of tribal members to allow their children to attend BIA school. Also included in this series are miscellaneous carbon copies of letters sent to day school teachers by the superintendent.

Related Records

Related BIA records held by the National Archives-Denver Branch include records created by the Pueblo and Pueblo and Jicarilla Agencies, 1874-1900; the Cimarron and Abiquiu Agencies, 1876-1883; the Albuquerque Indian School, 1886-1954; and the Northern, Southern, and United Pueblo Agencies, 1911-1952. The branch also holds records created by several smaller BIA agencies in New Mexico, which are described in the *Preliminary Inventory of Pueblo Records Created by Field Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs* (PI 192). Entries 1-23 of this inventory, excepting fiscal records, have been microfilmed on National Archives Microfilm Publication M941, *Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Pueblo Agency, 1874-91*, and M1304, *Records Created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Field Agencies Having Jurisdiction Over the Pueblo Indians, 1874-1900*.

Other related records held in the Rocky Mountain Region include Indian land claims and other Indian-related case files created by the U.S. district courts for New Mexico, 1850-1953, in Record Group 21, Records of District Courts of the United States. Denver also has survey plats of Indian lands and correspondence and other records related to land surveys that were created by the Surveyor General of New Mexico, 1855-90, in Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management.

Microfilm publications of related records in Record Group 75 held by the National Archives, Washington, DC, include: M18, *Register of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880*; M234, *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882*; M21, *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882*; M348, *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1882-1885*; M574, *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904*; and T21, *Records of the New Mexico Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1849-1880*. A microfilm publication of related records in the Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior (Record Group 48) is M364, *Interior Department Territorial Papers: New Mexico, 1851-1914*.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volumes: Date</u>
1	Press Copies of Miscellaneous Letters Sent 1-2; 06/03/1890-12/30/1891
2	3-4; 12/30/1892-11/18/1893
3	5-6; 09/21/1893-09/28/1896
4	7-8; 09/28/1896-08/30/1898
5	9-11; 09/01/1898-03/07/1900
6	12-13; 03/07/1900-09/06/1901
7	17-18; 01/01/1903-12/14/1903
8	19-20; 12/14/1903-10/08/1905
9	21-22; 11/25/1904-10/08/1905
10	24-25; 03/09/1906-12/19/1906
11	26-27; 12/19/1906-10/30/1907
12	28-29; 10/31/1907-09/20/1908
13	30-31; 09/21/1908-09/03/1909
14	32-33; 09/03/1909-08/09/1910
15	34-35; 08/10/1910-05/31/1911

16 36-38; 06/01/1911-12/09/1913
 17 Press Copies of Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
 1; 09/1893-02/1894
 1-2; 02/06/1900-07/01/1902
 18 3-4; 07/01/1902-08/02/1904
 19 6-7; 06/19/1905-01/31/1907
 20 8-9; 02/01/1907-07/18/1908
 21 10-11; 07/20/1908-01/13/1910
 22 12-13; 06/13/1910-04/05/1912
 23 14-16; 01/26/1912-09/25/1914
 24 Press Copies of Letters Sent Concerning Pueblo Day Schools
 1-2; 05/11/1900-03/31/1902
 25 3-4; 04/02/1902-10/19/1903
 26 5-6; 10/19/1903-02/28/1905
 27 7-8; 03/02/1905-07/09/1906
 28 9-10; 10/02/1906-11/09/1909
 29 11-12; 03/13/1908-11/09/1909
 30 13-14; 11/11/1909-04/08/1911
 31 15-16; 04/11/1911-03/16/1912
 Letters Received from Day School Teacher Clara D. True, 1902-1907
 Superintendent's Correspondence with Day School Employees
 Acoma and Chamita Pueblos, 1900-1916
 32 Chamita-Espanola Pueblos, 1903-1918
 33 Espanola-Jemez Pueblos, 1901-1915
 34 Jemez-Nambe Pueblos, 1900-1916
 35 Nambe-San Ildefonso Pueblos, 1900-1916
 36 San Ildefonso-Santo Domingo Pueblos, 1900-1916
 37 Santo Domingo-Taos Pueblos, 1900-1916
 38 Taos-Zia Pueblos, 1900-1917